



# HF Happenings



South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925  
[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) [www.iaru.org](http://www.iaru.org) [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)

No 632

November 2014

## Shortwave masts demolished

The DARC reported that a piece of radio history ended on 4 November with the demolition of the Wertachtal shortwave transmitter masts.

The shortwave station came into operation for the Munich Olympics in 1972. At the time, it was the largest shortwave transmitter in Europe with 29 masts up to 125 m high. The first test transmissions began on 10 April 1972, using the 500 kW transmitters.

The demolition of the facilities started in May and the plant will be completely demolished by the end of the year.

## GlobalSET tests our emergency communications

On Sunday 23 November, those trained and prepared for disaster when it strikes will be on air for a special training exercise.

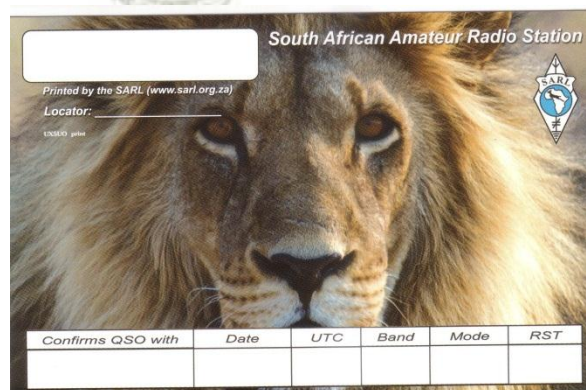
IARU Region 1 invites all IARU member societies and Emergency Communications Groups, to participate in its latest Global Simulated Emergency Test.

Emergency Centre-of-Activity frequencies on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres plus or minus QRM will have registered stations calling CQ GlobalSET.

The event is to increase common interest in emergency communications, test how usable the frequencies are across ITU regions, prepare for international emergencies and the relaying of messages.

GlobalSET 2014 which runs from 11:00 to 15:00 local time on 23 November has its

rules on the IARU Region 1 website at [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org), and includes registration with the relevant IARU regional coordinator.



## QSLing is the final courtesy of a QSO

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card, which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, including postage. To order, pay in the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL account.

Account details: ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005. Send details of the delivery address and proof of payment to [zs6wwwj@gmail.com](mailto:zs6wwwj@gmail.com).

## ARRL 160 and 10 Metre Contests

This December's ARRL 160 Metre and 10 Metre Contests complete the addition of new Single-Op Unlimited categories. All three power sub-categories: High Power, Low Power and QRP are available. This means stations using spotting information will no longer be assigned to the Multioperator category. It

also means there are quite a number of new records that will be set in December! Will your score be one of them?

### Word to the Wise

**Buckshot** - spurious emissions from phone signals. If you were on during Phone Sweepstakes, you heard a lot of it, including a few big stations with pretty wide signals. Clean it up! While I am on the subject, there were a number of stations with fairly cruddy audio that made copy difficult. Check it out and tone it up - you will get through quicker with fewer repeats!

### 2014 CQ WW DX SSB Contest

CQ World Wide Director, Randy, K5ZD, notes, "The raw scores for the 2014 CQ WW DX Contest SSB are now available [www.cqww.com/raw.htm?mode=ph](http://www.cqww.com/raw.htm?mode=ph). These are the scores as calculated by our log checking software *BEFORE* any checking or score reductions have been done. These scores provide quick feedback on who might be the winners, but there is a lot of log checking still to go. It is not unusual for scores to drop 3-8% (or more) so we will have to wait until the checking is completed to know who the winners will be." In addition, the score listings have been re-arranged to make it easier to compare scores between Single-Op and Single-Op Assisted categories.

### Aluminium

Since antennas, as aircraft are made from aluminium and stainless steel hardware, this Savvy Aviator article "Thwarting Corrosion" will be of interest

<http://www.avweb.com/news/savvyaviator/189857-1.html?redirected=1>.

### African Islands



IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

### November

1 – RTA in Cape Town; RaDAR Contest; Winterton Street Festival

1 and 2 – Cape Town International Kite Festival

5 to 8 – Delmas Christmas Market

9 – Remembrance Sunday; PEARS HF Contest

11 – Armistice Day/Remembrance Day

15 and 16 – SARL National Field Day; SARL VHF/UHF Contest

20 to 22 – Cherry Festival and Cherry 23 km Race, Ficksburg

29 – Sappi BirdLife Birding Big Day

29 and 30 – CQ WW DX CW Contest

### December

3 – Day of Persons with Disabilities

6 – SARL Digital Contest

10 – Schools close

12 to 23 – 2014 Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg

13 and 14 – ARRL 10 Metre Contest

16 – Day of Reconciliation

24 – Christmas Eve

25 – Christmas Day

26 – Family Day

27 and 28 – Iron Ham Contest

31 – 2014 CQ Marathon ends; Old Year's Eve

3B9, Rodrigues Island and 3B8, Mauritius Island. Johnny, SM6JBC, and Jan, SM6GOR, are currently active as 3B8JB and 3B8HB respectively, from Mauritius (AF-049) until 26 November, but will be active as 3B9JB and 3B9HB respectively from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) between 26 November and 2 December. Activity will be on the HF bands, using SSB, PSK31 and PSK63. QSL via their home call signs, by the Bureau or direct.

3Y/B, Bouvet. A team of 12 operators, lead by Alex, UN7PCZ, will be active as 3Y0F sometime between December 2015 and January 2016. The group plans to be on the island for 2 weeks with six stations on the air. More details and a web page are forthcoming. Watch QRZ.com.

EA8, Canary Islands. Fredy, SM6FKF, will be active as EA8/SM6FKF from the Canary Islands during the CQ WW DX CW Contest (29

and 30 November) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via SM6FKF.

FT4TA, Tromelin Island. The FT4TA Tromelin Island DXpedition is now QRT and the final QSOs count is out. The ClubLog's web page is now showing as of 01:27 UTC 10 November, the QSO count was 71 463 total and 18 407 unique call signs (28 410 CW, 33 609 SSB and 9 444 RTTY). Breakdown by continent is 789 AF, 4 ANT, 8 814 AS, 41 952 EU, 17 952 NA, 888 OC and 1 068 SA. Remember the online log is available at

<https://secure.clublog.org/charts/?c=FT4TA>

An OQRS will be available by ClubLog. QSL via F1NGP. QSLing details can be seen at <http://www.tromelin2014.com/cartes-qsl>

For more details and updates, visit or watch the following URLs

<http://www.tromelin2014.com/en/news/last-update/>

<http://www.tromelin2014.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/tromelin2014>

<https://twitter.com/tromelin2014>

ZD8, Ascension Island. Marko, N5ZO, will once again be active as ZD8O from Ascension Island (AF-003) between 17 November and 3 December. Activity will be on the HF bands with the focus on the CQ WW DX CW Contest (29 and 30 November). QSL via OH0XX, direct or by the Bureau.

ZD8, Ascension Island. Henri, OH3JR will be active as ZD8JR from Ascension Island (AF-003) from 14 November to 1 December. He will operate CW, SSB and RTTY mostly on 30, 17 and 12 metres. QSL via home call.

Cape Verde, D4. Fran, EA7FTR, will be active again as D44KS from Boa Vista (AF-086) from 9 November to 5 December. In his spare time, he will operate SSB and RTTY on 40 to 6 metres. QSL via EB7DX.

## African DX



Botswana. Operators Neil, VA7DX, and Roger, ZS6RJ, will be active as

A25RJ from Botswana during the CQ WW DX CW Contest (29 and 30 November) as a Multi-Single entry. Activity during and outside of the contest will be on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via ZS6RJ or LoTW.

Burkina Faso. Harald, DF2WO will be active holiday style as XT2AW from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 17 November to 2 December. He will operate SSB and CW on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres. QSL via M0OXO - OQRS preferred [www.m0oxo.com](http://www.m0oxo.com).

9Q5BQ LoTW Status. Pierre, HB9AMO, states: "This to inform you I started to copy my handwritten 9Q5BQ log into Logger32 and uploaded the QSOs to LoTW. QSOs will be uploaded as a batch of a 1 000 QSOs. As the log contains 12 500 contacts, it will take some time to have all QSO uploaded."

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 17 to 24 November 2014

### QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 UTC-03:30 UTC 19 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country and name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 20 November 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 19 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 November

Mode: CW



Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;  
 QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no;  
 non-Member: Name and state, province or  
 country  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
 Multipliers: Each call once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
 points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 22 November 2014  
 Post log summary at:  
<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NAQCC CW Sprint  
 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 20 November  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20 m  
 Classes: (none)  
 Max power: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country and  
 NAQCC no or power  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-  
 member; 2 points per QSO with member  
 Multipliers: Each state, province or country  
 once  
 Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if  
 bug, 1 x if other  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
 points x total mults x key type mult  
 Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 23 November 2014  
 Upload log at: <http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>  
 Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E.  
 High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA  
 Find rules at:  
<http://naqcc.info/sprint201411.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint  
 01:45 UTC-02:15 UTC 21 November  
 Mode: RTTY  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: (see rules)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
 points x total mults

Submit logs by: November 23, 2014  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at:  
<http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at:  
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

QRP Fox Hunt  
 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 21 November  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80 m Only  
 Classes: Single Op - fox or hound  
 Max power: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country,  
 name and power output  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
 Multipliers: (none)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
 points  
 Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 22 November 2014  
 E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at:  
[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

NCCC Sprint  
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 21 November  
 Mode: (see rules)  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: (see rules)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
 points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 23 November 2014  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at:  
<http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at:  
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

YO International PSK31 Contest  
 16:00 UTC-22:00 UTC 21 November  
 Mode: PSK31  
 Bands: 80 m Only  
 Classes: Single Op  
 Max power: 50 watts  
 Exchange: YO: RST, serial no and county; non-  
 YO: RST, serial no and country

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with YO station; 1 point per QSO with non-YO station  
 Multipliers: Each YO county and each country  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 6 December 2014

E-mail logs to: [pskyo@yo5crq.ro](mailto:pskyo@yo5crq.ro)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.yo5crq.ro/Rules2014EN.htm>

### LZ DX Contest

12:00 UTC 22 November to 12:00 UTC 23 November

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - mixed, CW or SSB; Single Op All Band Mixed QRP; Single Op Single Band Mixed; Multi-Single Mixed; SWL  
 Max power: Non-QRP: >10 watts; QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: LZ: RS(T) and 2-letter district; non-LZ: RS(T) and ITU Zone no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with LZ station; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 1 point per QSO with same continent

Multipliers: Each ITU zone and each district once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 December 2014

E-mail logs to: [lzdxc@yahoo.com](mailto:lzdxc@yahoo.com)

Upload log at:

[http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit\\_log.php?lang=en](http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en)

Mail logs to: BFRA, PO Box 830, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Find rules at:

<http://lzdxc.bfra.org/rulesen.html>

### Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 November  
 CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 November

QRP ARCI Top band Sprint, 00:00 - 06:00 UTC 27 November

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, CW, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 27 November

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 November

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 November

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW, 00:00 UTC 29 November to 24:00 UTC 30 November

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 December

### History this Week

Week starting 17 November 2014



1783 - The first men make a free flight from a hot-air balloon in the Bois de Boulogne, Paris.

1869 - The Suez Canal opens

1883 - Standard time zones are established by railroads in the US and Canada

1866 - the first US patent for a yoyo was issued to JL Haven and C Hittrick of Cincinnati, Ohio.

1888 - William Bundy patents the timecard clock

1904 - John Ambrose Fleming invented the first electron tube, a diode thermionic valve

1906 - A US patent was issued to G Pickard for the crystal detector

1906 - International Radio Telecommunications Com adopts "SOS" as new call for help

1931 - Commercial teletype service begins

1947 - The 200-inch (508 cm) mirror arrives at Mt Palomar Observatory

### Portable amateur radio operating at night

Richard, G3CWI

With winter fast approaching, the hours of daylight are dwindling here in northern Europe. Shorter days might mean less time for lightweight portable operating - but they do not have to. Portable operating at night can turn a trip to a familiar location into a real adventure.

For your first night-time trip, I suggest you choose somewhere that you know well and that is straightforward to reach. Even familiar places can look very different at night and getting lost is not part of the plan.

Obviously, your first thoughts will turn to lights. Modern LED lighting is bright and efficient. A head-torch is most useful as it leaves your hands free. There is no need to spend a fortune and a brightness of around 100 lumens will be fine for most applications. Much brighter lights are available but they get through batteries faster. When selecting a head torch look for one that won't switch on accidentally in your pack. Ideally look for one that includes a red LED mode. I recommend carrying a spare torch and batteries too as being stuck on a hill in the dark with no torch could be dangerous.

For your first trip, reconnect with nature by selecting a clear night with a full moon. This will make everything so much easier. For your approach walk, there are two possible ways to do things: just turn on the torch and walk is the most obvious. More rewarding however is to let your eyes adjust to the dark (takes around 20 minutes) and walk in without a torch. This is where the red light on your torch comes in handy as you can use the dim red light to check maps and even light the way without ruining your night vision. Oh - and turn the screen light right down on your mobile phone and GPS; they will ruin your night vision. In the dark, the world will look rather monochrome and you will see distant lights that will get you wondering just where they are.

Walking at night in the hills is a wonderful thing. Everyone should try it at least once! It is especially good with a full moon in the snow. Moonlight twinkling off crystals of fresh snow is something very special.

Some things to consider for your first night activation are to choose an antenna that will be easy to set up and take down. Night ops are not the time to try something new. Turn down the brightness of the dial lights on your radio if possible. Remember that the night gives you the chance to try out some different bands. 80 m is fun if you can manage to set up a low dipole. Once word gets around you will be in demand on the band. Take plenty of warm clothes and a warm drink too - it can get very cold on a clear moonlit night in the winter.



Nighttime 80 m SOTA activation

Do not forget safety. Let someone know where you are going and when you are expected back. Choose a walk in that you know is simple and safe - for example, avoid cliff edges. Choose an area where you will be safe from others too: my experience is that there are many more people out at night than you might expect.

Another variation worth considering is an "overnighter." I will perhaps give some tips on that later.

#### Comments from readers:

Mark Janzer wrote, "I'd like to comment on the operating at night blog entry:

I have found that bringing and laying down a small tarp/rain fly (or small tablecloth) helps to avoid losing small bits and pieces (like connector adapters) in the grass.

They are much harder to find in the dark and chew up time that could be spent operating rather than searching.

Martin Krawczyk wrote, "Good article, the only thing I would add is take some glow sticks and add them to the antenna. That way people (if any) will not walk into them. Small ones used by fishermen are ideal."